

MIAMI COUNTY COUNCIL
25 NORTH BROADWAY
PERU, INDIANA 46970
FEBRUARY 21, 2012

Council President Ralph Duckwall called the meeting to order and Councilman Wiles led the group in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. All members are in attendance.

Councilman Kendall was absent.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

MINUTES

Councilman Wiles moved to approve the January 3rd minutes. The motion was 2nd by Councilwoman Mull and passed 6-0.

Councilman McAuliffe made a motion to approve the January 17th minutes. Councilman Wiles 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

PLAT BOOK

Auditor Jane Lilley asked for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$21,000 from her Plat Book fund in order to move one salary in her office for the remainder of this year. The Plat Book Fund cannot do this next year but it will help the County General Fund for this year and she is willing to do it. Councilwoman Mull made a motion to allow the additional appropriation. Councilman McAuliffe 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

JAIL CONSTRUCTION FUND

The Auditor asked that \$60,537.22 be appropriated from the Jail Construction (Landscape) Fund be appropriated to help with the shortfall in the payment of the Jail Bonds. Councilman Hunt made a motion to approve the appropriation. Councilwoman Mull 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

SURVEYOR CORNERSTONE PERPETUATION FUND

There was a request to appropriate \$25,641 from the Surveyor's Cornerstone Perpetuation Fund for the remainder of a salary just for the remainder of 2012. Councilwoman Mull made a motion to approve the appropriation. Councilman Wiles 2nd the motion. Motion passed 5-0-1 abstain (McAuliffe).

CUM BRIDGE

There was a request to appropriate \$48,436 for Engineer Salary and \$25,000 for benefits for a total of \$73,436 from Cum Bridge. Councilman McAuliffe made a motion to approve the appropriation. Councilwoman Mull 2nd the motion and it passed 5-0-1 (Hunt abstained).

REQUEST FOR AUDIENCE

9-1-1

Cliff Gardner, 9-1-1 Director, spoke to the Council about the 9-1-1 fees. Currently we are charging \$1.75 per land line and as everyone knows, landlines are going away and being replaced with cell phones. This is causing a problem with funding the budgets. Mr. Gardner said we could go to \$2.99 or \$3.00 per line. There is a bill being presented at the legislative session that would supersede whatever the County would put in place. It was decided to hold off until the session is over to see what was passed. No action taken.

PLANNING AND ZONING

Pat Roberts, attorney for Planning and Zoning, presented an ordinance to separate the two positions into Building Commissioner and Zoning Administrator. The Council will need to delete the current two jobs and create the two new ones. The two positions would cross train so that if one was gone the other can fill in and there would be no down time in service to the taxpayer. No action taken.

2012 BUDGET

President Ralph Duckwall did a power point presentation on the 2012 budget and the possibility of changing the L.O.I.T. allocation. The Legislative Services Agency did a model example of different L.O.I.T. allocations. Mr. Duckwall stated that the County was looking at option 3 (50% res and 50%all) as the best one for Miami County at this time.

President Duckwall stated that other than cuts that have already been made he is holding all departments to what they spent last year.

Sheriff Tim Miller stated that it did not seem fair that if a department spent all the money they had, they got to keep that amount but if a department did everything they could to not spend their budget they would take a loss for this year. President Duckwall stated that it doesn't seem fair but he didn't know what else to do. Commissioner Francis asked what would happen if a department needed something this year that they did without last year, would it come from Riverboat or Rainy Day. That is not really fixing the problem. President Duckwall stated we will continue to work on.

Mr. Roberts asked if the information that the President presented would be available for the public to review. President Duckwall said that it is still a work in progress at this time.

President Duckwall explained about the bill being presented in this session that would allow Miami County (only Miami County) to change the allocation of the L.O.I.T. for 2011 pay 2012.

There will be a special meeting of the Council on February 29th at 4:30 p.m. in the Circuit Courtroom for review of the budgets and MCEDA ordinance.

There will also be a special meeting on March 6th or 8th (depending on advertising schedule).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sam Waltz asked how much room was left in the 1% allowance in local option taxes. The Auditor stated that C.O.I.T. was at .60 and C.E.D.I.T. was at .25 so there is .15 left in the 1%.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman McAuliffe. The motion was 2nd by Councilman Donaldson and passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted

Jane Lilley
Miami County Auditor